



Guale News

FEBRUARY 1998

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HAPPY NEW YEAR

AND IT'S OFF TO A GOOD START FOR GUALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY. PUT FEBRUARY 10TH ON YOUR CALENDAR.

Jim Drawdy, President of Glynn County Archaeological Association and Glynn County Cemetery Preservation Board Member, to speak!

The first meeting for 1998 will be on Tuesday, February 10 in the Guale Room at the St. Marys Library 7:00 - Executive Session - 6:30.

Mr. Drawdy is now involved in a project that will be of interest to members and guests alike - an archaeological study of the Satilla River from Burnt Fort up river to Highway 82. This scientific study has produced some outstanding artifacts which he will bring to the meeting as he explains the procedures used to locate them.



Satilla River at Burnt Fort 1928 Flood

He will also speak of the many preservation projects in Glynn County that he has been involved in.

To have background information for this program, you might want to read Martha Mizell Puckett's SNOW WHITE SANDS, the story of the Mizell family that lived near the white sands of the Great Satilla. A copy is in the Bryan-Lang Historical Library. Read also CAMDEN'S CHALLENGE, chapters 7 (water travel) and chapter 14, page 201-207 Burnt Fort.

DON'T FORGET- GEORGIA DAY is celebrated on February 12th commemorating General James Oglethorpe's landing with settlers at Savannah in 1733.

FUTURE PROGRAMS

Program Chairman Rodney Sheffield has arranged an exciting year of programs and rambles for Guale Historical Society members and guests - Dates and details will follow in future newsletters.

March - Ramble to the north end of the Camden County seeing Wayside Plantation, Bailey's Mill, Burnt Fort and over into Brantley County to visit Linda, the home plantation of West Sheffield.

April - the annual walking tour of St. Marys and Oak Grove Cemetery with tour guide Eloise Thompson

May - Society member Patricia Barefoot, NPS Park Ranger at Ft. Frederica, to speak

June - August - Vacation

September - Ware County historian and writer Robert (Bob) Hurst to speak.

October - Ramble to west Camden and Charlton. More details later.

November - Buddy Sullivan, coastal historian and writer, pays a return visit to Camden County, this time to talk

about rice planting and his new book THE DARIEN JOURNAL OF JOHN GIRARDEAU' LEGARE, RICE PLANTER. Election of officers.

1998 OFFICERS

President Dr. John Christian
V. Pres. Eloise Thompson
Treas. Mildred Walko
Rec. Sec. Susan Lee
Corr. Sec. Virginia Christian
Directors - James Stacy, Charles Thompson, Bebe Williams
Committee Heads: Archivist, J. Christian; Cemetery, Stanley Walko; Program, Rodney Sheffield; Newsletter Mailing, Minnie Johnson; Parliamentarian, Linda Sheffield; Publicity, Bill Blankenship; Guale News Ed., Eloise Thompson.
If you have any suggestions about programs, rambles or the newsletter, please contact one of your officers.

AN OPINION

A legal ad appeared in recent issues of TRIBUNE & GEORGIAN giving notice that a bridge is to be constructed across Grover Creek to Grover Island. This between 300 & 500 acre island is among the most significant archaeological sites in Camden County, having been homebase for early Indians whose middens dot the island.

If this bridge indicates development for the island, one can only hope that the owner Sea Island Company will continue to be a good steward as it has proved to be on historic properties they have developed on St. Simons.

Grover Island is bounded on the south by Crooked River and has been well preserved throughout its history. It has the distinction of being one of the earliest government reservations. In 1799, the U.S. Government bought the island as a live oak preserve, giving it a ready source of oak for shipbuilding.

As years passed, families settled on the island, but always signing an agreement that they would never lay claim to the lands. The government owned Grover Island until the late 1920s when the Sea Island Company bought it and the surrounding property.

No matter what the plans are for the island, it appears that archaeological studies of these middens will be essential to preserve another bit of information about the county's very early inhabitants. That's my opinion. Eloise

FROM BRYAN-LANG HISTORICAL LIBRARY

Historical Society member and writer Patricia Barefoot has featured Bryan-Lang Library in one of her recent columns in Glynn County's HARBOR SOUND. She has included in her article the many publications available at the library, including the county history CAMDEN'S CHALLENGE. Thank you Patricia for this fine promotional writing.

Now available for reading at the library FLOYD LETTERS, collected, edited and printed by Charles Floyd descendant John H. Corson. The majority of the letters are written by Charles Floyd, many to his late wife's sister in New England. These give a picture of life in the antebellum days of the Floyd family.

Library director John Christian keeps the library before the public with his many speaking engagements throughout the area. His latest program was presented to the Southern Genealogical Exchange Society in Jacksonville where he spoke on the Indians of Florida. He will be speaking to the Brantley County Historical Society in February on Life on the Satilla River.

The Bryan-Lang Historical Library in Woodbine is open Monday -Friday 8:00-5:00. Ph. 912-576-5841.

FROM OTHER SOCIETIES

The State of Georgia has turned its historical markers program over to the Georgia Historical Society. The Society intends to mark many sites which did not meet statewide criteria in the state's program. This will allow many local historical sites

to receive recognition. The new markers will bear the seal of the Georgia Historical Society. The existing markers will continue to be maintained by the state. If you are interested in the marker program, you may address queries to Danielle Bachant, Director of Public Programs and Publications, GHS 501 Whitaker Street, Savannah 31499. Tel. 912-651-2125.

The Georgia Historical Society announces its 1998 Georgia Heritage Celebration with ceremonies beginning on February 2 with activities at Old Fort Jackson. This year's honoree is Gov. James Jackson (1756-1806). A lecture about Governor Jackson will be on February 5 at the Historical Society library and a parade through Savannah honoring the 265th anniversary of the founding of Georgia will be held on the 12th, Georgia Day. For more information, you may contact the library at 912-651-2125.

The 1998 spring lecture series of the Georgia Historical Society include these programs, all taking place at the Society library at 501 Whitaker Street in Savannah. Free and open to the public:

February 12, 7:00 - Glenn McNair, PhD Candidate, Emory University, "The Trials of Slaves in Baldwin County, Georgia 1812-1838"

March 12, 7:00 - Frank Wheeler, Ass't Dir. Ga. Hist. Soc. "In Search of Savannah River Plantations"

April 16, 7:00 - Dr. Carol Blesser, Clemson University "Scarlet Revisited: A Planters Daughter in the Old South"

LETTERS

From new Guale member Irving A. Bailey of Elizabeth, New Jersey: "... your publication would be a valuable genealogical research source to my genealogy library. The Incisor Family History Library is currently researching my early ancestors of NE Spanish Florida and south Georgia.

"I am attempting to collect information about my known great great grandparents who were two African slaves known as "John Higginbotham" (ap) b-1800 and wife Chloe (Clara) (ap) 1795 in Barbadoes. They were among the first slaves brought to Camden County by pioneer Burroughs "Burriss" Higginbotham. "Slave" John Higginbotham and his small family worked on the Higginbotham plantations, first for Burriss, then Samuel. When Samuel died, they worked for Sarah Higginbotham, then Alexander until the end of the Civil War.

"John Higginbotham died on his farm at Brookman in Glynn County approximately 1890. According to census records his father was from Ireland/England, and his mother was a slave from the Barbadoes, British West Indies. Note: John Higginbotham slave family originated in Amherst, Virginia.

"I am also interested in finding additional information on plantation owner Peter Massie, and Bonaventure Plantation of Glynn County, Georgia. My grandmother: Sophia "Massey" Bailey, b-1875, d-1962. Her parents: Alexander Massey b-1808 and wife Charlotte Massey approx b.-1810, were slaves on the Peter Massey plantation Bonaventure. Upon the death of Peter Massie, Bonaventure Plantation and slaves were sold.

"I have interest, too, in collecting information on the ancestors of my grandfather's father Henry Dixon Bailey, b. about 1820. He is a mystery in our family. He may have been a Bixler or Drayton slave.... During slavery Henry Dixon Bailey fathered children of Sarah (Susannah) Higginbotham. Some of the known children were: John Henderson, Chloe Goodbread, Clifford Higginbotham, Washington Higginbotham, Jack Higginbotham Bailey, Hester Higginbotham. Henry Dixon

Bailey disappeared around 1859-1860.

After his disappearance Sarah Higginbotham married Daniel Richardson of Glynn County...."

If anyone has information to help Mr. Bailey, you may send it to him at PO Box 2285, Elizabeth, N.J. 07207-2285.

Ed. Note: From Margaret Davis Cate's OUR TODAYS AND YESTERDAYS, PP. 270 & 271, a summary of Peter Massie's will recorded Aug. 31, 1840 shows that he was a resident of Elizabethtown, Essex County, New Jersey. He left his plantation Bonaventure to his wife Sarah, to his wife's daughter Anna Elizabeth and his wife's mother Hannah Williams. He also left \$5000 for the education of poor children of Glynn County, \$5000 for those of Savannah, and \$5000 for those in Elizabethtown. The remainder of his property went to the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missionaries.

From Society member James Jamison of Zelenople, PA: "I appreciate receiving the Guale News and would like to be a part of your organization again in 1998.

"I am impressed with the accomplishments of the Guale Historical Society and especially the work of Dr. John Christian. To all of you I wish a happy 1998.

MEMBERSHIPS

January 1 always marks the beginning of a new year for membership dues. If you have not already renewed for 1998, please do so now.

Send to Treasurer Mildred Walko, 800 Margaret Street, St. Marys, Ga 31558. Do NOT send to the newsletter return address, this slows the returns of membership cards.

FAMILIES \$15 INDIVIDUAL \$8 STUDENT \$2

Those who have renewed for 1998 as of January 13: Lois Adam, Jacksonville; Sheila Ashe (New); Thomas & Alice Avery (New); Alan & Diann Bailey, Savannah; Irving A. Bailey Family, Elizabeth, N.J. (New); George Brown, Atlanta; Haze & Judy Buchanan; Joe & Lois Chaney, Brunswick; Thomas Cleland, Jacksonville; Vickie Barwick; Robert Cross, Fernandina; Bill Davis, Atlanta; June Driggers (New); Bill & Lucy Gay; Maybelle Gilfillan, Monte Vista, CO; Lilla Greeley (New); Flem & Peggy Hall; Suzanne Hardee, Fernandina (New); Odell & Mau-Wiece Hightower, Cape Canaveral (New); Lonell Hogan, Jacksonville; Dot Holstun, Decatur (Life Member); James Jamison, Zelenople, PA; Haryette Johnson, St. Simons (New); James Johnson, Doraville, (New); Phil & Virginia Jory, Atlanta; William & Rosa Lee Kelley; W.C. King, Avondale Estates; Hubert Lang Family, Brunswick; Sam & Susan Lee; John & Linda Love; James Lucas, Jacksonville; Mary McLaughlin, Jacksonville; Patricia McMillan (New); Ed & Duckie Marx (New); Midge Mathews, Raleigh, N.C.; Virginia Proctor; Charles & Patricia Smith (Life Members); Bob & Joyce Smith; Bill & Ann Stoddard; Charles & Eloise Thompson; William Thompson, Savannah; Debra Vasquez; Maxine Wells, Statesboro; Dottie West; Alex Williams, Atlanta; Henry & Linda Williams.

REMINDER: JIM DRAWDY TO SPEAK, GUALE ROOM, ST. MARYS CITY LIBRARY, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 7:00. EX. SESSION 6:30.